## Case 2:20-ev-00561 Document-89-1 Filed 07/08/21 Page 1 of 44 PageID #: 710

## In the Matter of:

## **WILLIAM ALLEN MEANS**

VS

E.M. PETERSON

**WILLIAM MEANS** 

March 29, 2021



5010 Dempsey Drive Cross Lanes WV 25313 304-415-1122

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA AT CHARLESTON

WILLIAM ALLEN MEANS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Civil Action No. 2:20-561

E.M. PETERSON, D. HARVEY, and THE CITY OF SOUTH CHARLESTON,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM ALLEN MEANS

\_\_\_\_\_

The deposition of William Allen Means was taken on March 29, 2021, at 10:11 a.m., at 500 Randolph Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

ELITE COURT REPORTING, LLC 5010 Dempsey Drive Cross Lanes, West Virginia 25313 (304) 415-1122

Lisa Hall, CCR

		Page 2	Page 4
1 2	APPEARANCES L. Dante' diTrapano		1 WILLIAM ALLEN MEANS,
	Attorney at Law		2 called as a witness, first being duly
3	Calwell Luce diTrapano, PLLC		3 sworn by the Court Reporter/Notary Public,
	500 Randolph Street		4 testified as follows, to wit:
4	Charleston, West Virginia 25302		5 EXAMINATION
5	W. Jesse Forbes		6 BY MR. RUGGIER:
6	Attorney at Law		
	Forbes Law Firm, PLLC		I am mounte, can you class your manner or and
7	1118 Kanawha Boulevard, East		8 record?
	Charleston, West Virginia 25301		9 A. William Means.
8			10 Q. And do you mind if I call you Billy? You
9	Duane Ruggier, II		11 can call me Duane.
10	Attorney at Law Pullin, Fowler, Flanagan, Brown & Poe, PLLC		12 A. Yeah. That's fine.
10	901 Quarrier Street		13 Q. Billy, my name is Duane Ruggier. I'm an
11	Charleston, West Virginia 25301		
12			14 attorney that represents the City of South
	Also present: D. Harvey		15 Charleston in a lawsuit that you filed arising out
13			16 of an incident that happened on May 2nd of 2000
14 15			17 (sic).
16			18 A couple of things before we begin. If
17			19 you don't understand my question, just let me know,
18			20 and I'll be glad to repeat it. You have to
19			
20			21 verbalize everything that you've got to say so the
21			22 court reporter can take down everything that we say
23			23 in our conversation and later on produce a
24			24 transcript of it. Do you understand that?
1 2 3	I N D E X	Page 3	Page 5  1 A. Yeah.  2 Q. Whenever if you need to take a break at  3 any time let me know I'm glad to do so. We'll
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Page 6 Page 8 1 license? 1 A. 8/25/89. 2 Q. And at the time of your arrest in this 2 A. No. 3 case, what was your height and weight? 3 Q. Have you ever had a driver's license? A. Five-eleven, one hundred and eighty. 4 A. Yeah. Q. Do you know what your height and weight is Q. When did you last have a driver's license? 5 6 now? Your height is the same, but what about your A. It's -- I'm not sure really. 2009, 2010. 6 7 weight? 7 Q. All right. Was it a West Virginia 8 A. I ain't got a clue. Probably 165. 8 driver's license? Q. Where do you currently live? 9 9 A. Yeah. 10 A. North Charleston. 10 Q. Prior to living at the 2615 6th Avenue 11 Q. What's the address? 11 address, where did you reside? 12 A. 2615 6th Avenue. 12 A. 821 1st Avenue South, Nitro. 13 Q. And who do you live with? 13 Q. And who did you live there with? 14 A. My dad. 14 A. My grandmother. 15 Q. And what's your dad's name? 15 Q. What's her name? 16 A. Michael Means. 16 A. Helen Lacy. 17 Q. And how long have you lived there? 17 Q. Could you repeat that? A. Less than a month. 18 18 A. Helen Lacy. 19 Q. Has your dad lived there a long time at 19 Q. Helen Lacy? 20 this residence? 20 A. Yeah. 21 A. No. He just moved in there, too. 21 Q. Do you spell Lacy, L-A-C-Y? 22 Q. All right. Anybody else live there? 22 A. Yeah. 23 A. His girlfriend. 23 Q. And how long did you live there with your 24 Q. What's her name? 24 grandma? Page 7 Page 9 A. A couple months. 1 A. Renee Fuson. 1 2 Q. Renee Fuson. Can you spell "Fuson"? 2 Q. What's that? 3 A. F-U-S-O-N. 3 A. A couple months. Q. Is your dad employed? 4 4 Q. A couple months. 5 A. Yeah. And then prior to the 821 1st Avenue South 5 6 Q. What does he do? 6 address, where did you live? 7 A. He owns his own contracting company. 7 A. 803 Sharon Drive. Q. What's the name of it? 8 8 Q. 803 what? 9 9 A. Sharon Drive. A. Absolute Contracting. 10 Q. Do you know your dad's phone number? 10 Q. Where is that located? A. 304-964-1431. 11 11 A. South Ruffner, Charleston. 12 Q. How long has your dad owned Absolute 12 Q. South Ruffner, Charleston? 13 Contracting? 13 A. Yeah. 14 A. I'm not sure really. 14 Q. And who did you live there with? Q. What do they do at Absolute Contracting? 15 15 A. Myself. Q. And how long did you live there? 16 A. General contracting. 16 17 Q. Does he build stuff? 17 A. It was a couple months. 18 Q. When you lived with your grandma, did 18 A. Yeah. 19 anybody else live there other than your grandma? 19 Q. All right. Anything in particular? 20 A. Not really. 20 A. My uncle. 21 Q. All right. What is your Social Security 21 Q. What's his name? 22 22 number? A. Bradley Means. 23 A. 232-37-6895. 23 Q. Repeat that. 24 Q. And what is -- did you have a driver's 24 A. Bradley Means.

Page 10 Page 12 1 Q. Does he have a phone number? 1 Q. Like from when to when? 2 A. No, not that I know of. 2 A. I don't -- I'm not really sure on 3 Q. Does your grandma have a phone number? 3 specifics. I mean --4 A. I don't know the number. 4 Q. Do you know where we are as far as years? 5 Q. Is your grandma employed? 5 Are we talking about 2015? Are we talking about --6 A. No. A. 2017, '18, something like that. 7 7 Q. Is Bradley employed? Q. 2017, '18. 8 A. Yeah. He takes care of her. He's her 8 Prior to becoming homeless, where did you 9 live? 9 caretaker. 10 Q. He what? 10 A. My address was my grandma's. 11 11 A. He takes care of her. Q. What's that? 12 Q. Gets a paycheck from the government --12 A. 821 1st Avenue was my address. 13 A. Yeah. 13 Q. What was the address? 14 Q. -- to take care of her? 14 A. 821 1st Avenue, at my grandma's. All right. Prior to the 803 Sharon Q. You lived with your grandma before that. 15 15 16 address, where did you live? 16 How long did you live with your grandma on A. With my boss over in Loudendale. I don't 17 17 the stint before you were homeless? A. A while. A couple years. 18 remember his address. 18 19 Q. Your boss in Loudendale? 19 Q. Before that, do you know where you lived? 20 A. Yeah. 20 A. I don't remember. 21 Q. What's his name? 21 Q. You're not currently employed, right? 22 22 A. Donnie Brown. A. No. 23 Q. And it was on Loudendale Road, is that 23 Q. When was the last time you held a job? 24 A. Before the accident. 24 what it is? Page 11 Page 13 A. I guess. It's Loudendale, unincorporated, Q. At the time of the accident, were you 1 2 I guess. 2 employed? Q. What's the city? 3 A. Yeah. 4 A. Charleston. 4 Well, kind of. I mean, he was just laying 5 Q. You called him your boss? 5 people off. He got sick, and so he didn't have as 6 A. Yeah. I worked with him before the 6 many jobs as usual. Q. So at the time of the accident, the only 7 accident. Q. Where did you work with him? 8 place where you occasionally would work would be --8 9 A. Brown's Grave Digging Services. 9 A. Donnie Brown's Grave Digging Services. 10 Q. Brown's Grave Digging Services? 10 Q. And how often would you work for Donnie 11 A. (Nodding head.) 11 Brown as a grave digger? 12 Q. Is that business still in operation? A. It just depended on when he got calls, you 12 13 A. Yeah. As far as I know. 13 know. It was maybe two, three days a week. 14 Q. Do you know Donnie Brown's phone number? 14 Q. It would be a couple days a week? 15 A. No, I don't. 15 A. (Nodding head.) Q. How long did you live with Donnie Brown? Q. And how much would you get paid? 16 16 17 A. Just a couple months. 17 A. \$100 a day. 18 Q. Prior to living with Donnie Brown, where 18 Q. What was the average that you would make 19 per week at the time of the accident? 19 did you live? 20 A. I was homeless. 20 A. Three- to \$500. 21 Q. You were homeless? 21 Q. What's that? 22 22 A. Anywhere from 3- to 500. A. Yeah. 23 Q. And how long were you homeless? 23 Q. How often would you make \$500? 24 A. A couple years. 24 A. When he got the call. I mean, it was not

Page 14 Page 16 A. No. 1 very often. 1 Q. What was the average wage you would get 2 Q. So you did not file a tax return in 2020? 3 during the week at the time of the accident? 3 4 A. 300. 4 Q. Did you file a tax return in 2021? Q. Who could establish that you were working A. No. 5 5 6 for Donnie Brown's Grave Digging Services? Q. I'm sorry. Did you file a tax return in 7 2019 is what I meant? A. Donnie. 7 8 Q. Can you give me his phone number? A. (Shaking head.) Q. Is that a "no"? A. I don't have it. My dad could tell you 9 10 10 I -- I mean, he'd tell you that I worked there, A. Yeah. No. 11 too. 11 Q. Did you file a tax return in 2018? A. No. I haven't filed taxes in a long time. 12 Q. What's that? 12 13 Q. Did you file a tax return in 2017? 13 A. My dad -- I said, my dad knew that 14 A. No. 14 I worked there. Q. Is there any way to get a hold of Brown's Q. Did you file a tax return in 2016? 15 15 16 Grave Digging Services? 16 A. No. A. I mean, I could get the number for you, 17 Q. Okay. Did Donnie pay you under the table? 17 18 but I don't have it now. I lost it when I lost my 18 A. Yeah. 19 phone. 19 Q. Just straight cash, no --20 Q. Is it -- I mean, is it a number that's on 20 A. A hundred dollars a day. 21 the Internet or --21 Q. -- no taxes, nothing like that? 22 22 A. A hundred dollars a day. A. It may be. 23 Q. Where is Brown's Grave Digging Services 23 Q. So at the time of the accident, you were 24 employed at Brown's Grave Digging Services, which 24 located? Page 15 1 you would do -- periodically, you would work for A. It's out of Loudendale. 1 2 Brown's Grave Digging Services digging graves; is 2 Q. What cemeteries would you dig graves? 3 A. All over. From here to Red House. 3 that accurate? Is that correct? 4 Q. Just different cemeteries? A. Yeah. 5 A. (Nodding head.) 5 Q. And prior to that, were you ever employed? Q. And do you get paid per day? Do you get A. Yeah. 7 paid per grave? 7 Q. Where? A. Per day. A. The only job is at BP, I guess. 8 8 Q. Do you know if Donnie got paid per day or Q. You worked at BP? 9 10 per grave, or the business gets paid --10 A. Yeah. A. No. I never -- I never asked. 11 11 Q. BP where? 12 Q. What's that? 12 A. Kanawha City. 13 A. I think he got paid per grave and tent 13 Q. Do you know what year you were employed 14 service. 14 there? 15 Q. Say that again? 15 A. I think it was 2015? A. Per grave and tent service. Q. And what did you do there? Cashier? 16 16 17 Q. Oh, tent service? 17 A. Yeah. 18 A. Yeah. Q. Other than being employed at Brown's Grave 18 19 Digger Services and at BP in 2015 -- are those the 19 Q. Okay. So if this accident happened in 20 2020, how much money had you made, or would you 20 only two places that you've been employed in the 21 estimate that you had made, from January 1st, 2020, 21 past call it five years or so? 22 to May of 2020? 22 A. I worked on and off for my dad 23 A. I have no clue. 23 occasionally. 24 Q. On and off for your father? Correct? Q. Did you file tax returns? 24

Page 20 Page 18 A. Yeah. 1 1 Q. Have you ever been married? 2 Q. Is that what you said? 2 3 For Absolute Contracting? 3 Q. Have you got any kids? 4 A. Yeah. 4 A. No. 5 Q. And how often would you work for your 5 Q. What's the name of your mother? A. Tonya Devitt. 6 father? 6 A. Just whenever he needed the help. 7 Q. Say that again? 7 8 Q. At the time of the accident, how often had 8 A. Tonya Devitt. 9 you worked for your father? Q. Tonya? Can you spell "Tonya"? 9 A. Me and my father were having a falling-out A. T-O-N-Y-A D-E-V-I-T-T. 10 10 11 at the time of the accident. 11 Q. And is she still alive? 12 Q. So you had a falling-out at the time of 12 A. Yeah. 13 the accident. 13 Q. Where does she live? 14 How about prior to the accident, when was 14 A. I don't know. 15 the last time --15 Q. You don't have much to do with her? A. That's what I mean, prior to the accident, 16 A. Not really. 17 I hadn't worked for my dad for a while. Q. When did you last speak to her? 17 Q. For how long? 18 18 A. I don't remember. 19 A. Probably six months or so. Q. A long time ago? 19 20 Q. Why did you and your dad have a 20 A. It's been a while. 21 falling-out? 21 Q. Why don't you have a relationship with 22 22 your mom? A. Just differences. 23 Q. What were your-all's differences 23 A. I don't know. 24 regarding? 24 Q. Personal differences? Page 19 Page 21 A. He's an asshole. A. I guess so. 1 1 MR. FORBES: Do you need a break, Billy? 2 Q. Why was he an asshole? 2 A. I mean, why -- because he's a dad. Are you doing okay? 3 3 4 Q. Because he's a dad? 4 THE WITNESS: I'll be all right. Q. Let me know anytime you need to take a 5 A. Yeah. Q. All right. So at the time of the accident 6 break. I'll be glad to do so. 7 in May of 2000 (sic), you had not worked for your A. Let's get it over with so I can take a 7 8 father for at least six months? 8 break and go lay down. It's hard on my back. 9 Q. I understand. Well, it's going to be a 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. And that was because you and your father 10 while. 11 had some personal differences? 11 A. Yeah. 12 Q. So I'm just saying, just whatever you need 12 A. Yeah. 13 to do at any point, I'll be glad to accommodate you 13 Q. When you would work for your father, how 14 in any way you need. 14 much would you make an hour? 15 So are you close to any family members? 15 A. Fifteen dollars an hour. Q. And what would you do? 16 16 A. Not really. A. Just general contracting, general labor. 17 Q. Do you have any brothers or sisters? 17 18 Q. You would do labor for 15 bucks an hour? A. Yeah. 18 Q. Are they around? 19 A. (Nodding head.) 19 20 Q. Is that a "yes"? 20 A. Yeah. 21 21 Q. What's their names? 22 Q. Have we covered your employment history 22 A. It's Shonathan, Kavan, and Matthew. 23 pretty much? 23 Q. Say that again? A. Pretty much. 24 A. Shonathan. 24

Page 22 Page 24 1 Q. Shonathan? 1 around here, and Brittany Pitzer. 2 A. Yeah. Mairs. That's my mom's kid. 2 Do you know where the Mairs live at all? Q. Let's see. All right. Shon- -- spell it. 3 3 A. Sissonville. 4 A. S-H-O-N-A-T-H-A-N. 4 Q. Sissonville? 5 Q. That is your -- and what's the last name? 5 What's your educational background? 6 A. Mairs, M-A-I-R-S. A. I didn't complete high school. Ninth 6 7 Q. And that is your mother's child? 7 grade. 8 A. Yeah. Q. You quit high school in the ninth grade? 8 Q. Is it a boy or a girl? A. Yeah. 9 9 10 A. Boy. 10 Q. Where? 11 Q. How old is Shonathan? 11 A. St. Albans. 12 A. Sixteen, seventeen, something like that. 12 Q. All right. Why did you quit? Q. All right. And any other brothers or 13 A. Got expelled. 13 14 sisters? Q. Why did you get expelled? 14 15 A. Kavan -- K-A-V-A-N -- Mairs. 15 A. Smoking weed. Q. Did you ever try to go back? 16 16 Q. Also your mother? A. Yeah. They told me to join the Army. 17 A. Yeah. 17 Q. Is that a boy or a girl? Q. What's that? 18 18 19 A. Yeah. They told me to join the Army. A. Boy. 19 20 Q. How old? 20 Q. So did you? 21 A. Twelve. 21 A. No. 22 22 Q. So what did you do after getting expelled Q. Any others? 23 A. Matthew Means. 23 in ninth grade? 24 Q. Matthew Means? A. I went and tried to take my ASVABs, but I Page 23 Page 25 A. Yeah. 1 just gave up on it. 1 Q. You just gave up? 2 Q. And how old is Matthew? 2 3 A. Twenty, twenty-one. 3 So never got a high school diploma or 4 Q. And where does Matthew live? 4 anything? 5 A. I'm not sure. Loudendale, I think. A. No. 6 Q. Does he live around here? Q. Have you ever been injured in any other 7 7 way in which you asked for money from an insurance A. Yeah. And Brittany Pitzer. 8 company? 8 9 Q. Brittany Pitzer? 9 A. No. 10 A. Yeah. That's my dad's daughter, but he 10 Q. Filed a claim of any kind? 11 didn't -- she got adopted out. 11 A. No. Q. Brittany Pitzer, P-I- --12 Q. Nothing like that? 12 13 A. P-I-T-Z-E-R. Have you ever filed any Workers' Comp 13 14 Q. How old is Brittany? 14 claims? 15 A. Twenty-four, twenty-five. 15 Q. Where does Brittany live? Q. Any claims for disability, or anything 16 16 17 A. I'm not sure. 17 like that? 18 Q. Does she live around here? 18 Q. Has anybody ever filed a lawsuit against 19 A. I think in Kanawha City somewhere. 19 20 20 you? Q. Do you have much contact with Brittany? 21 A. No. I haven't talked to her in forever. 21 A. No. Q. Have you ever filed any other lawsuits? Q. So there's Shonathan Mairs. There's Kavan 22 22 23 Mairs. Those are your mother's kids. There's 23 24 24 Matthew Means, who is your dad's kid that lives Q. All right. How about we talk about your

Page 26 Page 28 1 criminal history? A. No, she's not. She's an elderly person. 1 2 Have you ever been charged with a crime? 2 Q. She what? 3 A. Charges? Yeah, a couple. A. She's older. She's on disability, I 3 4 Q. What's that? 4 think. 5 A. Yeah, a couple. 5 Q. What kind of car was it? Q. Let's see. Do you have any memory issues, A. A Honda Civic. 7 or anything like that? 7 Q. You say you found her car which had been A. Not really, but like I can't really 8 stolen, and you were going to return it to her? 9 remember stuff from way far -- I mean, I ain't got 9 A. Yeah. 10 a very good memory, but I got a decent memory. 10 Q. How did you start the car? 11 Q. What's that? A. It was abandoned and sitting on Loudendale 11 12 A. I ain't got an amazing memory, but I've 12 with the keys in the ignition and the doors open. 13 got a decent memory. 13 Q. Do you have any idea -- can you speculate 14 Q. Okay. So I want to talk to you about a 14 as to why --15 couple of past crimes or past incidents. You tell 15 MR. FORBES: Objection to form. 16 me what you remember the best you can. 16 But you can go ahead and answer. 17 Let's see. There was the February 25th, 17 MR. RUGGIER: Yes. 18 2019, incident. Anything about that? Maybe with a 18 A. No clue. 19 police officer? Running from the police? Anything 19 Q. You don't have any idea. 20 like that? 20 Did you ever gain any information as to 21 A. Oh, yeah. 21 why this car would be on Loudendale with the keys 22 Q. What's that? 22 in it and the door open? 23 A. Yeah. 23 A. Huh-uh. 24 Q. Why don't you tell me what happened? 24 Q. Is that a "no"? Page 27 Page 29 A. No. A. I ran into a vehicle that had been 1 Q. Let's see. You were charged on 2 reported stolen. 2 Q. Say that -- you what? 3 January 22nd, 2020, for driving with A. I said I found a vehicle that my neighbor 4 suspended/revoked license and secondary arson? 5 had -- that had been stolen from my neighbor. A. I don't recall any of those. 5 6 I went to return it to her, and the police got 6 Q. You don't remember that at all? 7 Driving unlicensed? Don't remember 7 behind me. I didn't have a license. I was 8 anything like that? 8 nervous, and so I didn't stop. Q. So you found your neighbor's vehicle that A. Huh-uh. 10 had been stolen? 10 Q. August 5th, 2019, for driving on a 11 A. Yeah. 11 suspended license? 12 Q. And you were going to return it to her? 12 A. I don't remember that either. 13 Q. You have no recollection of an August 5th, A. Yeah. 13 14 Q. So how did you get the vehicle? 14 2019, arrest for driving on a suspended license? A. It was abandoned on Loudendale. 15 15 A. No. Q. February 26, 2019. Fleeing with reckless 16 Q. It was what? 16 A. Abandoned on Loudendale. 17 indifference in a stolen vehicle. Do you remember 17 18 Q. So who was your neighbor? 18 anything about that? 19 A. Leslie Swift. 19 A. That was the same incident we was talking 20 Q. Do you know Leslie's phone number? 20 about, wasn't it? 21 21 Q. Probably, from the looks of it, yeah. A. No, I don't. 22 22 Q. Do you know where Leslie lives? That's the one with the --23 A. Not now. She moved. 23 A. Where I found the vehicle, yeah. 24 Q. Do you know if Leslie is employed? 24 Q. November 19th, 2018, for driving on

Page 30 Page 32 1 revoked -- driving revoked for DUI? (Mr. diTrapano enters the room.) 1 2 (Mr. diTrapano exits the room.) 2 A. I don't remember it. A. That one might -- maybe. I mean, I Q. October 14th, 2010, for possession of 3 3 4 don't -- I've been pulled over a couple times for 4 marijuana. You were sentenced six months for this. 5 driving revoked. I can't recall exactly when, A. I don't remember it. 5 6 but ... 6 MR. FORBES: I'm going to object. Does Q. So you don't really have any memory of it, 7 that show like a suspended sentence, or are 7 8 or there's several of them, so --8 you saying that somebody put him in jail for A. There's a couple of them. I mean, it's 9 six months? 10 MR. RUGGIER: I don't know if somebody --10 just ... 11 Q. August 26th, 2018, for driving while 11 well, I'm not sure. 12 license suspended/revoked and for transferring 12 MR. FORBES: Okay. 13 stolen property? 13 MR. RUGGIER: Whatever he remembers is all 14 A. Yeah. 14 I'm looking for. 15 Q. Why don't you tell me what happened there? 15 Q. April 11th, 2010, for concealed weapon A. The tags I had I had found in a parking 16 without a license? 16 17 lot and put them on my car. 17 A. Yeah. Q. You just found them in a parking lot, and 18 Q. What do you remember about that? 18 19 so you put them on your car? 19 A. Me and a friend -- I was moving back with 20 20 my mom, and I had my pistol in the trunk in a A. Yeah. 21 Q. You didn't steal them off another car? 21 lockbox. I got pulled over, and the cop -- we told 22 A. No. 22 the cop it was there, and he tried to carry -- he 23 Q. Why didn't your car have tags? 23 pulled it out and tried to get me for carrying 24 24 concealed. It was tossed out. A. Because I had just got it. My uncle had Page 31 Page 33 1 just passed away. I came in to go -- to be a Q. April 8th, 2009, for embezzlement? 1 2 pallbearer at his funeral. A. Yeah. I worked for Go-Mart, and I got 2 Q. Let's see. April 25th, 2016. Driving 3 caught stealing cigarettes. 4 while license suspended/revoked for DUI and for DUI Q. They called that embezzlement? 4 5 on meth? A. Yeah. It was petit larceny. 5 6 A. I don't remember that. 6 Q. Do you remember what you received for 7 Q. April 5th, 2016, for marijuana possession? 7 that? 8 A. I don't really remember that. 8 A. Paid restitution. That's about it. Q. March 29th, 2016. Driving for -- revoked Q. Okay. So it wasn't really embezzlement. 9 10 for DUI? This is the anniversary of that one. 10 Were you taking money from Go-Mart? 11 A. What is it? A. It was -- they didn't -- couldn't prove 12 Q. I said it's the anniversary of that one. 12 that I was. It was dropped to petit larceny. 13 A. Uh-huh. 13 Q. They proved that you stole some 14 Q. Do you remember it at all? 14 cigarettes? 15 A. Huh-uh. A. Yeah. 15 16 Q. January 31st, 2016. DUI? 16 Q. Well, there's the -- maybe it's the same 17 A. I don't remember it. That's back a little 17 one. April 21st, 2009, petit larceny? 18 far for me. A. Yeah. 18 19 Q. October 13th, 2015. DUI? 19 Q. It's probably the same. 20 A. I don't remember it. 20 Have you ever been treated for drug or

22

23

24

21 alcohol abuse?

A. No.

A. No.

Q. What's that?

21

22

23

Q. October 22nd, 2011, for DUI?

Q. January 23rd, 2011, for

24 receiving/transferring a stolen vehicle?

A. I don't recall.

Page 34 Page 36 Q. Are you a drug addict? 1 May 2nd --1 2 A. No. I was. Recovering. 2 A. I can't really recall. Q. So you'd describe yourself as a recovering Q. You're not sure when you did? 3 3 4 drug addict? 4 A. No. I'm not sure. Q. But you did take illegal drugs prior to A. Yeah. 5 5 6 Q. When were you a drug addict? 6 the accident at some point? MR. FORBES: Objection to form. 7 A. Before the accident. 7 8 Q. Before the accident? 8 You can go ahead and answer if you --A. Yeah, I guess, but like I said, I don't 9 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. At the time of the accident, were you a 10 really remember just when. 11 drug addict? 11 Q. Can you state that you did not take drugs 12 in the two days prior to the accident? 12 A. No. I was in the -- had just started A. I -- I really don't remember. 13 recovery. 13 Q. So at the time of the accident, you were 14 Q. You're not sure? 14 15 not a drug addict --15 A. Not sure. 16 Q. And is it a fair characterization of your 16 A. I was in recovery. Q. You were a recovering drug addict because 17 testimony that you do not know when you last took 17 18 you had stopped using drugs? 18 drugs prior to the accident? A. Yeah. 19 A. Yeah. 20 Q. When did you stop using drugs? 20 Q. What's that? A. I don't really recall like the exact date, 21 21 A. Yes. 22 but I attempted to do it. It was probably a month 22 Q. Do you need to take a break? 23 before my accident. 23 24 Q. On the day of the accident, had you taken 24 Q. What kind of drugs would you take prior to Page 35 Page 37 1 any drugs? 1 the accident? 2 A. No. A. I was just a user. It didn't matter. I 3 Q. What's that? 3 was just looking to comfort --Q. Looking to comfort what? 4 A. Huh-uh. No. 4 Q. And on the night before the accident, had A. It didn't matter. I mean, I was a drug 5 5 6 you taken any drugs? 6 addict. Q. You were just -- any kind of drugs you 7 A. Not that I recall. 7 8 could get your hands on? Q. In the two weeks prior to the accident, 9 had you taken any drugs? 9 A. Yeah. 10 A. Probably. 10 Q. Would that include opioids? 11 Q. You say "probably"? 11 A. Yeah. 12 A. Yeah. 12 Q. Would that include intravenous drug use? 13 Q. Did you tell any doctors or medical A. It would mean anything beforehand. 13 14 personnel that you were an IV drug user? 14 Q. What's that? A. At one point in time, yeah. 15 A. I had -- like I hadn't been using 15 Q. After the accident? 16 16 intravenously for a while. Q. Say that again? 17 A. Yeah, at one time. 17 Q. At the time of the accident, you were not A. I said, I hadn't been using intravenously 18 18 19 an IV drug user? 19 for a while before the wreck. I had been sober for 20 A. It was beforehand. 20 a good bit. 21 21 Q. What's that? Q. What's that? 22 A. It was beforehand. 22 A. I had been sober from intravenous use for Q. When was the last time that you took any 23 a good while. 23 24 Q. You were more into drug- -- pills? 24 kind of illegal drugs prior to the accident on

Page 40 Page 38 A. No. Just smoking meth. Q. Did you say you quit making money? 1 1 2 Q. Smoking meth? A. I quit being able to work, and so I 2 A. Smoking heroin. 3 3 couldn't afford the drugs. And I got infections. Q. On the day of the accident, would you 4 So the more I'd get high, the more infections would 5 think that there was methamphetamines in your body? 6 A. No. Q. Is -- the reason that you're no longer a 6 Q. On the day of the accident, would there 7 drug addict is because you are handicapped now? 8 be -- would you think there would be any kind of MR. FORBES: Objection to form. 9 opioids in your body? A. Not necessarily, but, yeah, it does have a 9 10 A. Not -- there shouldn't have been. 10 good -- I mean, I'm more prone to infection being 11 Q. On the day of the accident, would you 11 handi- -- and drugs bring infection. 12 think there would be any kind of drugs in your Q. And you can't really -- is it hard for you 12 13 body? 13 to get drugs now? 14 A. There shouldn't have been. Not that I A. I don't even try. I don't even attempt. 14 15 I don't even think about them. I think about my 15 know of. Q. Do you remember the last time you did any 16 life more than that. 17 kind of illegal drugs prior to the accident? Q. Is it a fair statement that your being 17 18 paralyzed is the reason for you no longer being a 19 Q. Prior to the time of the accident, how 19 drug addict? 20 often would you smoke meth? 20 A. Not necessarily, but ... 21 A. Just occasionally. 21 Q. Then maybe I'm --22 Q. What's that? 22 A. I'm no longer a drug addict because I 23 A. Just occasionally. 23 don't want to be a drug addict. I mean ... 24 Q. Like what does that mean? If you can, Q. You're no longer a drug addict because you 24 Page 41 1 give me something more accurate. Once a week? 1 don't want to be a drug addict? 2 Once --2 A. Yeah. I choose not to be. A. Whenever it was brought to my -- I mean, 3 3 MR. DITRAPANO: Duane, it's been an hour, 4 whenever somebody had it. 4 and he, you know, indicated to us earlier 5 Q. Whenever you got your hands on it? 5 that he was having, you know, a hard time, you 6 A. Basically. know, sitting up for long periods of time. 6 7 Q. Because you were a drug addict, and --7 We can't do anything about that really. But 8 A. Basically. 8 maybe it would be a good time to take a short Q. -- that's what drug addicts do? 9 9 break if you can. 10 Did you ever sell any drugs? 10 MR. RUGGIER: That's fine with --11 A. No. 11 THE WITNESS: My bowels don't work, and Q. Was meth your drug of choice? 12 12 I haven't used the bathroom in over two weeks. 13 A. I didn't have a drug of choice. So it's like concrete (indicating) right now. 13 14 Q. How come? 14 I mean, it's --15 A. Because I was a drug addict. 15 MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I understand. Q. So you were just looking for any drugs you 16 16 THE WITNESS: I ain't got no mobility in 17 could get? 17 my back. A. Yeah. MR. RUGGIER: Whatever -- like I said at 18 18 Q. And how did you become cured from being a 19 19 the beginning, whatever you need to do --20 drug addict? 20 MR. FORBES: Let's take a five-minute A. I quit making money and got handicapped. 21 21 break, and we'll just see how it goes. 22 Q. What's that? MR. RUGGIER: Do you need to lay down or 22 23 A. I said, I quit making money and got 23 something or --24 handicapped. Too many infections. 24 THE WITNESS: I mean, it would be nice,

Page 42 Page 44 1 but I ain't going to be able to here. 1 Q. What kind of bike was it? 2 (Break in proceedings.) 2 A. 500 Ninja. 3 (Mr. Forbes not present.) 3 Q. Was that your first, as we'll call it, 4 BY MR. RUGGIER: 4 crotch rocket? Q. Let's talk a little bit about your --A. Yeah. 5 6 let's see. On the day of the accident, did you Q. So you've been riding crotch rockets for 6 7 have a motorcycle license? 7 about 15 years? A. No. A. Yeah. 9 Q. Have you ever had a motorcycle license? Q. Have you -- in all that time, you never 9 10 10 had a motorcycle license? 11 Q. Have you ever had any training on how to A. No. 11 12 drive a motorcycle? 12 Q. What would you do if you got pulled over 13 A. No. 13 by the police and you didn't have a motorcycle 14 Q. Did anybody ever teach you how to drive a 14 license? 15 motorcycle? 15 A. I'd get pulled over, and like any other A. Yeah. I've been on one my whole life. 16 time, I'd lose my bike and go to jail. 17 Q. You've always rode motorcycles? 17 Q. What's that? A. I said, I'd lose my bike and go to jail. 18 A. Yeah. 18 19 Q. Since you were a kid? Q. Did you ever try to get a motorcycle 19 20 A. Yeah. 20 license? 21 Q. So who taught you how to ride? 21 A. No. 22 A. Myself mostly. 22 Q. Why not? 23 Q. When did you first start riding 23 A. Because I had a DUI. 24 Q. If you have a DUI, you can't get a 24 motorcycles? Page 43 Page 45 A. I was like five or six. 1 motorcycle license? 1 Q. So the only time that you've learned how A. I never took the DUI classes. I mean, 3 to ride a motorcycle, you just basically -- you 3 you've got to have a license to get a motorcycle 4 self-taught kind of thing? 4 license. Q. Why didn't you take the DUI classes? A. Yeah, my whole life. Twenty-some years. 5 5 6 Q. What's that? A. I couldn't afford it. 7 A. About twenty-some years riding. Q. Let's talk a little about your motorcycle Q. Do you consider yourself to be an 8 that you had on the day of the accident. Where did 8 9 experienced motorcycle rider? 9 you get that motorcycle? 10 A. Yeah. 10 A. My uncle got it for me. 11 Q. The motorcycles that you would ride, would Q. Your uncle? 11 12 you ride dirt bikes or street bikes? 12 A. Yeah. 13 A. Mostly dirt bikes. 13 Q. Which uncle? 14 Q. How often would you ride a street bike? 14 A. It's not really my uncle. I just call him 15 my uncle. It's my aunt's boyfriend, my mom's 15 A. Daily. Q. Daily you'd ride a street bike? 16 sister's boyfriend. 16 17 A. Yeah. When I got my first one. 17 Q. What's his name? 18 Q. What's that? 18 A. Richie. A. When I got my first one. I don't remember 19 Q. Richie what? 20 when it was. Probably 2005, I started riding 20 A. Dodd. 21 street bikes. 21 Q. Richie what? 22 22 A. Dodd. Q. You think you got your first street bike 23 around 2005? 23 Q. Dodd? A. Yeah. 24 A. Yeah, D-O-D-D.

1 Q. And do you know Richie's phone number?

- 2 A. He doesn't have one.
- 3 Q. He doesn't have a phone?
- 4 A. Not that I know of.
- 5 Q. Do you know what your aunt's phone number 6 is?
- 7 A. I don't think she has one either.
- 8 Q. Do you know where Richie lives?
- 9 A. Over on Greenbrier Street. I don't know
- 10 the address.
- 11 Q. How would you get a hold of Richie if you
- 12 wanted to?
- 13 A. Show up at his house.
- 14 Q. How did he get -- you said he -- my --
- 15 my --
- 16 A. He got it in a deal. He traded a car.
- 17 Well, it was like kickback from somebody buying a
- 18 car from him.
- 19 Q. But how did you get it?
- 20 A. He gave it to me.
- 21 Q. So the motorcycle was given to you by your
- 22 aunt's boyfriend?
- 23 A. Aunt's boyfriend, yeah.
- 24 Q. What kind of bike was it that he gave you?

1 it in as boot.

- 2 Q. It was a barter kind of deal.
- 3 At the time when you received it, did you

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- 4 think that it was likely a stolen bike?
- 5 A. No. I had the sheriff run the VIN number
- 6 on it.
- 7 Q. How did you do that?
- 8 A. My girlfriend called the law on me, and
- 9 they came and ran the VIN number on it.
- 10 Q. So your girlfriend called the police on 11 you?
- 12 A. Yeah. I was parked in the driveway, and
- 13 they thought it was stolen. So they ran the VIN on
- 14 it, and it came back clean.
- 15 Q. Well, they ran the VIN on it and it came
- 16 back clean, but -- what -- that means it had not
- 17 been stolen?
- 18 A. Yeah. When they run the VIN, it comes
- 19 back stolen or clean.
- 20 Q. But the license plate was to a different
- 21 motorcycle?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. If the license plate is to a different
- 24 motorcycle, doesn't that suggest that maybe this

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- 1 A. CBR 600.
- 2 Q. CBR 600.
- 3 Is that a Honda?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. It's a Honda?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. It was registered as a Yamaha YT250 or
- 8 XT250?
- 9 A. That was just the license plate that was 10 on it.
- 11 Q. What's that?
- 12 A. I said that was just the license plate
- 13 that was on it.
- 14 Q. Where did you get that license plate?
- 15 A. It was on it when I got it.
- 16 Q. So what does that tell you about the bike?
- 17 A. Probably the people before didn't have a
- 18 motorcycle license either.
- 19 Q. Probably what?
- A. The people that owned it before didn't
- 21 have a motorcycle license either.
- 22 Q. Do you know how much Richie paid for it,
- 23 or did he pay for it?
- A. He sold a car to somebody, and they threw

- 1 bike is a stolen bike?
- A. No. When the VIN number comes back clean,
- 3 the VIN number comes back clean. The license plate
- 4 has nothing to do with the VIN number.
- 5 Q. How long had you had the bike?
  - A. Probably six months.
- 7 Q. How often would you ride it?
- 8 A. Not very often. I was more working on it.
- 9 I was going to take the motor off and put it on a 10 go-cart.
- 11 Q. Why?

6

- 12 A. Because I didn't have a title to it.
- 13 Q. Because you didn't have the title to the
- 14 motorcycle --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. -- you were concerned --
- 17 A. I was just going to put the motor on a
- 18 go-cart.
- 19 Q. Can you do that?
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. Was that bike your principal means of
- 22 getting around?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. What would you normally use to drive

Page 50 Page 52 1 around? 1 model. 2 A. I wouldn't drive around. I'd be driven. Q. You don't have any idea why that bike was 2 3 Q. What's that? 3 registered as an XT250? A. I didn't have a vehicle. I had people 4 A. Because somebody probably just picked the 5 plates up and put it on there. I mean --5 give me rides. Q. Was the bike your only way of getting Q. Give somebody else some different 7 around? 7 plates and --A. Yeah, but I really didn't ride the bike A. Yeah. 9 Q. What repairs did you do to the bike? 9 like that. 10 Q. You really what? 10 A. Just -- I mean, not really repaired. I A. I really didn't ride the bike like that. 11 painted it. Like I said, I was going to take the 11 12 I mean, it wasn't -- I didn't want to get in 12 motor off of it and put it on a go-cart, so ... 13 trouble. I mean -- so mostly I'd get a ride from Q. But you never did? 13 14 someone if I needed to go somewhere. 14 A. No. 15 Q. So the way you would normally get around, 15 Q. You painted it. Did you do anything else 16 would you get a ride from somebody? 16 to it? 17 A. Yeah. 17 A. Not really. Q. You never got the motorcycle registered? I put new tires on it. 18 18 19 19 Q. You put new tires on it? A. Yeah. Well, like new. They were used, 20 Q. Why was the gas tank black? 20 21 A. Because I painted the whole bike black. I 21 but --22 painted it with Rhino lining because it was more of 22 Q. You put new --A. A different tire on it. 23 a stunt -- I mean, when I did ride it, I'd ride it 23 24 Q. -- used tires? 24 in parking lots doing tricks, and easy touch-up. Page 51 Page 53 Q. You would do tricks on the bike? 1 A. Yeah. 1 2 Q. Different tires? A. Yeah. 2 3 Q. Like what? 3 A. Yeah. A. I'd ride wheelies. Just mess around on Q. Why did you put different tires on it? 4 5 it. I mean --5 A. I don't know why. 6 Q. So bike tricks, and things like that. 6 Q. What's that? 7 So you painted the whole bike black? A. I don't know. Someone give them to me. 7 8 A. Yeah. Rhino lining. It didn't come off Q. What kind of tires did you put on? 8 9 as easy. 9 A. I don't remember. 10 Q. Explain to me what Rhino lining is. 10 Dunlops, I think. 11 A. It's like bed liner for a truck. 11 Q. Do you know what type of Dunlop? Q. Oh, so you put Rhino liner on it? 12 12 A. No. 13 A. Yeah. 13 Q. Do you know what type of tread was on 14 Q. I gotcha. 14 there? 15 What was the color of the gas tank 15 A. (Shaking head.) 16 originally? Q. No? Is that no? 16 17 A. Purple. A. No. 17 18 Q. You didn't like that? Q. Okay. Did you ever do anything to the 18 19 A. It was all right, but it didn't have all 19 brakes? 20 the plastics to it, and so it looked kind of -- it 20 A. Not that I know of. 21 was a Smokin Joe Edition. 21 Q. Were the brakes operating properly at the 22 Q. Okay. You mean, the bike was a Smokin Joe 22 time of the accident? 23 Edition? 23 A. Yeah. 24 24 Q. Was the steering operating properly at the A. Yeah, like Smokin Joe Camel. It was a '96

Page 54 Page 56 Q. How else? Anything else specifically you 1 time of the accident? 1 2 A. Yeah. 2 would do as you cross a railroad track? A. Nothing specific. 3 Q. Was everything operating properly at the 3 4 time of the accident on the bike? 4 Look both ways. A. Yeah. 5 Q. Do you remain seated? 5 Q. The tires you put on, were they wider than 6 A. Yeah. 6 7 Q. Have you ever previously wrecked going 7 the ones that were originally on it? A. No. They were the same size. 8 over railroad tracks? 9 A. No. 9 Q. Same size. 10 10 What happened to the seat? Q. Have you ever driven a motorcycle on the 11 side of the railroad tracks on the rocks? 11 A. It didn't have one on it. 12 Q. There was no seat on it? 12 A. No. 13 Q. So you've been riding motorcycles for 13 A. No. I put a seat from my previous bike on 14 it. 14 20 years? 15 Q. Oh, okay. So you put a new seat on it? 15 A. Yeah. 16 Q. Are you aware that you need to have a 16 A. Yeah. Q. Because right now the bike -- I went and 17 motorcycle license to --17 18 looked at the bike, and there's no seat on it. 18 A. Yeah. A. I guess that's where they wrecked me. 19 Q. What's that? 19 A. Yeah. 20 Q. Did it come off during the wreck, or do 20 21 you know? 21 Q. Do you -- let me finish my question. 22 22 A. Sorry. A. I don't know. 23 Q. What kind of seat did you put on it? 23 Q. Are you aware that you need to have a 24 A. It was a CBR seat. I mean, it was a 24 motorcycle license to properly operate a motorcycle Page 57 1 in the state of West Virginia? 1 regular seat. It locked in just like the other one 2 did. 2 A. Yeah. 3 Q. Did you ever do anything to the Q. Are you aware that you need to properly 4 suspension? 4 register a motorcycle in order to drive the 5 A. No. 5 motorcycle on the roads of the state of West 6 Q. Did you say "no"? 6 Virginia? 7 7 A. Yeah. Q. Had you crossed railroad tracks before Q. I think we covered this but did you have a 8 8 9 while you were riding bikes? 9 motorcycle license on May 2nd, 2020? 10 A. Yeah. 10 A. No. 11 Q. Did you cross railroad tracks before while 11 Q. And have you ever had a motorcycle 12 you were riding a motorcycle? 12 license? 13 A. No. 13 A. Yeah. 14 Q. Were you pretty familiar with crossing 14 Q. Did you have motorcycle insurance on 15 railroad tracks --15 May 2nd, 2020? A. No. 16 A. Yeah. 16 17 Q. -- on motorcycles? 17 Q. Were you aware that you were supposed to A. Yeah. 18 have motorcycle insurance to operate a motorcycle 18 Q. How do you cross railroad tracks on 19 on the roads in the state of West Virginia? 19 20 motorcycles? 20 A. Yeah. A. I don't understand what you mean. 21 Q. And why did you not have insurance? 21 22 Q. What's the best way? How would you cross A. Because I really wasn't supposed to be 22 23 a railroad track? 23 riding the bike. A. Slowly. Cautious. 24 Q. Like why am I going to insure a bike that

Page 58 Page 60 1 I shouldn't -- I shouldn't drive? 1 from the police? 2 A. That I -- yeah. A. Yeah. 2 Q. Are you aware that it is illegal to smoke 3 3 Q. And you are aware that if the police flash 4 meth and drive a motorcycle on the roads in the 4 their lights at you as you are driving, then you 5 state of West Virginia? 5 should stop and pull over? 6 MR. DITRAPANO: Object --6 A. Uh-huh. 7 7 Q. Is that a "yes"? A. Yeah. 8 MR. DITRAPANO: -- to the form of the 8 A. Yeah. 9 Q. What's that? question. 9 10 A. Yeah. 10 A. Yeah. 11 Q. You are aware that if the police have 11 MR. DITRAPANO: He never said he was 12 smoking meth and driving. 12 their lights and siren on behind you, that you 13 13 should stop and pull over? Q. You can answer that. 14 A. Yeah. 14 A. Yeah, I understand. 15 Q. What's that? 15 Q. Do you agree that it is reasonable for a 16 police officer to pull over a motorcycle if that 16 A. I said yeah. Q. Have you ever made methamphetamines? 17 motorcycle is stolen? 17 18 A. Yeah. 18 19 Q. Have you ever made crystal 19 Q. Do you agree with me that your motorcycle 20 methamphetamines? 20 on May 2nd of 2020 does not look like an XT250? 21 A. No. 21 22 22 Q. Have you attempted to make Q. Are you aware that stolen motorcycles are 23 methamphetamines? 23 often painted over? 24 A. No. 24 A. I guess so, yeah. Page 59 Q. Have you ever attempted to make crystal Q. Do you think it's reasonable for a police 1 2 methamphetamine? 2 officer to attempt to pull over a motorcycle that A. No. 3 has been painted over and that the license plate 3 4 Q. Are those two different things? 4 does not match the registration? 5 A. I mean, I -- I don't know. MR. DITRAPANO: I'm going to object to the 5 Q. Is crystal meth different than regular 6 form. 7 meth, or --7 A. Yeah, I guess so. A. I don't know. Is it? Q. Do you agree that it would seem reasonable 8 8 9 Q. That's what I'm asking. 9 for a police officer's suspicion to be raised if 10 A. Your guess is as good as mine. 10 the motorcycle's license plate and registration 11 Q. What's that? 11 does not match the type of motorcycle? 12 A. I said, your guess is as good as mine. I 12 A. Yeah. 13 just used it. MR. DITRAPANO: Just lodge my objection 13 14 Q. Are you aware that it is illegal to 14 to the form. All these questions where he's 15 possess the precursors to make meth in the state of asking what a reasonable officer would do, I'm 15 16 West Virginia? just objecting to the form. 16 17 A. Yeah. 17 But you can answer them however you want 18 Q. Have you ever been in possession of the 18 19 precursors to make methamphetamines? 19 Q. I may have asked you this, but do you 20 20 think it's reasonable for a police officer to pull 21 Q. On May 2nd of 2020, were you in possession 21 over a motorcycle whose driver does not have a 22 of any of the precursors to make methamphetamines? 22 license? A. No. 23 23 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form.

24

A. If they knew that they -- I guess so,

24

Q. You are aware that it is illegal to run

1 yeah.

- 2 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 3 officer to arrest an individual who has the
- 4 precursors to making methamphetamines?
- 5 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 8 officer to arrest an individual who is in
- 9 possession of methamphetamines?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form.
- Q. Do you think it's reasonable for a police 12
- 13 officer to arrest an individual who is high on
- 14 methamphetamines while operating an unregistered
- 15 motorcycle without a license?
- 16 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form.
- 17 A. I guess so, yeah.
- 18 Q. Do you agree that it is dangerous to
- 19 operate a motorcycle while high on
- 20 methamphetamines?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. Do you agree that it's dangerous to
- 23 operate a motorcycle while high on any type of
- 24 illegal drug?

A. Yeah.

1

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- Page 65 1
- Q. Do you agree that your chances of wrecking
- 3 a motorcycle increase when you are high on
- 4 methamphetamines?
- A. Not necessarily.
- 6 Q. Not necessarily. How so?
- 7 A. Your senses are more heightened.
- 8 Q. What's that?
- A. Your senses are more heightened, and you
- 10 pay more attention to things that you usually
- 11 wouldn't.
- Q. Do you think that you are a better 12
- 13 motorcycle operator while high on methamphetamines?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. What's that?
- A. No. 16
- 17 Q. Do you agree that your chances of wrecking
- 18 your motorcycle into other individuals increase
- 19 when an individual is high on methamphetamines?
- 20 A. I guess.
- 21 Q. Do you need to take a break or anything?
- 22 A. No. I just need to get it over with.
- 23 I've got to go home and lay down and get dug out.
- 24 Q. What's that?

- Page 62 A. I said I need to get -- the nurses are 1
  - 2 coming today to dig me out. Like the only way I

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- 3 can have a bowel movement is digital stimulation.
- 4 Q. Yeah. I gotcha.
- 5 What do they do for that? Do they not
- 6 give you anything, or --
- 7 A. I'm on five different laxatives. They
- 8 don't work. There's two types of a spinal cord
- 9 injury. You've either got your sphincter and
- 10 rectum are closed solid or they're loose, and mine
- 11 are solid.
- 12 Q. Yours is closed?
- A. Yeah. 13
- Q. What kind of medication do they give you 14
- 15 for that, do you know?
- 16 A. Miralax, Senokot, and like in the
- 17 hospital --

21

- Q. That don't work. 18
- 19 A. No, none of them work.
- 20 Q. That don't work.
  - Do you agree that it's dangerous for other
- 22 individuals on the road when an individual is high
- 23 on meth operating a motorcycle?
- 24 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form.

- A. Repeat that.
- 2 Q. Do you agree that it is dangerous for the
- 3 other individuals on the road when an individual is
- 4 high on methamphetamines operating a motorcycle?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 MR. DITRAPANO: Same objection.
- 7 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 8 individual to run from the police on a motorcycle
- 9 if they do not have a motorcycle license?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 12 individual to run from the police if their
- 13 motorcycle license is suspended?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 16 individual to run from the police on a motorcycle
- 17 if they do not have motorcycle insurance?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for an
- 20 individual to run from the police on a motorcycle
- 21 if they do not have the motorcycle properly
- 22 registered?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for police to

Page 68 1 pursue an individual who is believed to have Q. You slept on the couch. 1 Who lives there with Don Brown? 2 committed a crime and is running from that officer? 2 MR. DITRAPANO: I'm going to object to the 3 3 A. Donnie. 4 form of all the reasonableness questions 4 Q. Anybody else? 5 again, so ... 5 A. No. 6 A. Repeat it again. 6 Q. Don Brown, is he -- he's the grave digger 7 MR. DITRAPANO: But you can answer them. 7 guy? 8 Q. Do you think it is reasonable for a police 8 A. Yeah. 9 officer to pursue an individual who is believed to 9 MR. FORBES: Hey, Duane, I'll tell you, 10 have committed a crime and is running from that 10 during one of the breaks, we looked up Donnie 11 officer? 11 Brown online. I've got a phone number. 12 A. Yeah. 12 MR. RUGGIER: Great. 13 13 MR. FORBES: It's 744-1977. Q. Do you agree that it was reasonable for 14 Officer Peterson to initiate a pursuit of you on 14 MR. RUGGIER: Is that the business or --15 May 2nd, 2020 -- or 2020 --15 MR. FORBES: The business, the grave 16 MR. DITRAPANO: Object to the form. 16 digging service. 17 Q. -- if you had a reasonable suspicion to And it's on Kanawha State Forest Drive in 17 18 believe you were operating a vehicle without a 18 Loudendale. 19 registration that may be stolen? 19 Q. All right. So you wake up at Donnie A. No. I mean, if he had probable -- but he 20 Brown's house. How did you get there? 21 never really engaged in pursuit. It was more of a 21 A. I drove my motorcycle. 22 bullying tactic. 22 Q. You drove a motorcycle to Donnie Brown's MR. RUGGIER: Can we take a break? I've 23 23 house? 24 24 got to go to the bathroom. A. Yeah. Page 67 Page 69 1 MR. DITRAPANO: Yeah. Sure. Q. The day before or what? 1 2 (Break in proceedings.) 2 A. Yeah. 3 (Mr. Forbes present.) 3 Q. Do you know? Are you just saying that, or 4 BY MR. RUGGIER: 4 do you remember? Q. Let's go to May 1st of 2020, the day 5 A. Yeah, the day before. 6 before the arrest. Do you know what you did that 6 Q. What time did you get to Donnie Brown's 7 day? Do you remember anything about that day? 7 house? A. Not really. A. I don't really remember. It was in the 8 Q. You don't have any idea what you were 9 evening time. 10 doing, what was going --10 Q. Why did you stay there? 11 A. I don't really remember. 11 A. Because I was wore out. Q. All right. Let's go to May 2nd. Do you 12 12 Q. Why were you wore out? 13 remember May 2nd at midnight, the start of the day? 13 A. I don't remember really. I was just A. No. I remember waking up May 2nd around 14 14 tired. 15 8:30. 15 Q. What's that? Q. You woke up on May 2nd at about 8:30 16 16 A. I said, I don't really remember. I was 17 where? 17 just tired. A. Donnie's house. I left to go get parts Q. Did you all do any drugs that night? 18 19 for another motorcycle I had gotten. 19 A. No. Donnie doesn't do drugs. 20 Q. At whose house? 20 Q. Did you all drink any alcohol? 21 A. At Donnie's house. Donnie Brown. 21 22 Q. Who all stayed there that night? 22 Q. Did you smoke any pot? 23 A. I don't even really remember. I fell 23 24 asleep on the couch. 24 Q. Take any pills, or anything like that?

Page 72 Page 70 A. No. I just crashed out. Q. Do you know where on Trace Fork? 1 1 2 Q. Do you know what time you arrived? 2 A. No. I don't know the address. It's just 3 A. No. I don't remember. 3 on Trace Fork. Q. So you wake up at Donnie Brown's house 4 Q. So you wake up, and what do you do? Get 5 that morning -- are you all right? Are you going 5 on a bike? 6 to be able to do this? A. Yeah. Q. What bike do you get on? 7 A. I don't know. 7 8 MR. FORBES: You're in a lot of pain A. The CBR. 9 9 Q. Okay. And what do you do? obviously. THE WITNESS: Yeah. I've got to get dug 10 10 A. I head to Trace Fork. 11 out. I mean, it's (untranslatable sound) ... 11 Q. When you got on the bike that day, you 12 A. What was the question again? 12 knew that you did not have a driver's license? 13 MR. FORBES: Let's take a break for a A. Yeah. 13 14 second. Then --14 Q. And you knew that the bike was not MR. RUGGIER: Why don't you all figure --15 15 registered? 16 MR. FORBES: Yeah. 16 A. Yeah. Yeah. Let's -- why don't you come and Q. You knew that you shouldn't be riding the 17 17 18 talk to me and Dante for a minute? Let's take 18 bike that day? 19 a break and see if we can keep going or not. 19 A. Yeah. Q. And you knew you were operating the bike 20 (Break in proceedings.) 20 21 (Mr. diTrapano not present.) 21 illegally? 22 22 BY MR. RUGGIER: A. Yeah. Q. So why did you operate the bike when you 23 Q. So you were at Dan Brown's -- Don Brown's 23 24 house -- is it Dan or Don? 24 knew it was illegal? Page 71 A. Donnie. 1 A. Because I needed to go get the parts and 1 Q. -- Donnie Brown's house the night before. 2 wasn't thinking. 3 You spent the night there. Do you remember anybody Q. What's that? 3 4 else that spent the night there? A. I wasn't really thinking. I needed to go 4 5 A. (Shaking head.) 5 get the parts. 6 Q. Don Brown was there? Q. You wanted to get the parts, and there was 7 A. Yeah. 7 no other way for you to get the parts other than 8 get on the bike and --8 Q. And you wake up about 8:30? 9 A. Yeah. 9 A. Yeah. Q. And why do you wake up at 8:30? 10 Q. Ronnie was giving you some clutches --10 A. Because I was supposed to be at Ronnie 11 11 clutch cables? 12 Blizzard's house getting clutch cables for another 12 A. Clutch cables, yeah. 13 bike that I was working on. Q. Was he giving them to you, or you were 13 14 Q. Supposed to be at Ronnie Blizzard's house? 14 buying them, or what? 15 A. Yeah. 15 A. He was giving them to me. 16 Q. Do you know Ronnie Blizzard's number? 16 Q. They were clutch cables that you were 17 17 going to put on what? A. No. 18 Q. And what were you getting? A. Another bike. 18 A. Clutch cables for another bike I was 19 19 Q. Which bike? 20 working on. 20 A. A Honda Shadow. 21 Q. Where does Ronnie Blizzard live? Q. Were they clutch cables for what bike? 21 22 A. On Trace Fork. 22 A. For a Honda Shadow. 23 Q. He lives on Trace Fork? 23 Q. He was just giving them to you? 24 A. Yeah. 24 A. Yeah.

Page 74 Page 76 1 Q. How come? A. A lot. 1 2 A. Because I needed them, and he had them. 2 Q. What's that? Q. Well, was he giving them to you rather 3 A. Quite a few. 4 than selling them to you, or is he a friend of 4 Q. Is Ronnie employed? A. Yeah. He works at Blizzard's Custom 5 yours, or what? 5 A. Yeah. He was a friend of mine. I had 6 Cycles. 7 Q. Okay. Where is that? 7 given him parts before. Q. Okay. Was it one clutch cable? Two 8 A. On Davis Creek. Q. Is Blizzard's Custom Cycles still 9 clutch cables? 9 A. It was a clutch cable, one clutch cable. 10 10 operating? 11 A. Yeah. Q. For what? 11 A. For a Honda Shadow. 12 12 Q. All right. So what happens next? 13 Q. Yeah. For what clutch? I guess for 13 A. I turn off of 119 and get on Trace Fork. 14 where? Is there just one clutch on Honda Shadows? 14 That's when I noticed -- when I turned onto Trace 15 A. There's just one clutch on any bike. 15 Fork is when I noticed the officer behind me. Q. All right. So Dan Brown -- or Don Brown. 16 Q. You noticed the officer behind you 16 17 where does he live? 17 whenever you turn off of 119 to go onto Trace Fork? A. Kanawha State Forest. A. When I turned off the road to turn onto 18 19 Q. All right. So how do you -- you leave Don 19 Trace Fork. 20 Brown's house from where and -- what -- you get on Q. Okay. How did you notice the officer 20 21 Corridor G? Is that what you do? 21 behind you? 22 22 A. Yeah. You go to Davis Creek and A. It was a switchback turn. 23 Corridor G, 119. 23 Q. When you noticed the officer, was the 24 Q. You go from Davis Creek Road to 119? 24 officer's lights or siren on? Page 75 Page 77 A. No. 1 A. Yeah. 1 2 Q. All right. And so you get on your bike 2 (Mr. diTrapano enters the room.) 3 and you head towards Ronnie Blizzard's house? 3 Q. Okay. So what do you do? A. Yeah. 4 A. I continue to go. Q. And so you get on 119, headed south on 5 Q. What's that? 6 119? A. I said, I continue on my way. A. I don't know which way I was heading. I Q. Just keep on driving because there's no 8 was heading towards Trace Fork out past Walmart. 8 lights and siren? 9 Q. Away from Charleston? A. Yeah. 9 10 A. Yeah. 10 Q. Are you concerned? 11 Q. All right. So you pass Walmart. When are 11 A. A little bit. He's following really 12 you going to turn to get on Trace Fork Road, do you 12 aggressive, making me nervous, making me feel like 13 know? 13 he's going to wreck me. 14 A. The -- it's the -- I don't know what it's 14 Q. Were you also concerned because you know 15 called. 15 you're operating the bike illegally? Q. What's that? 16 16 A. No. A. I don't know what the road -- the name of 17 Q. Is it your testimony that it's not a 17 18 the road is called. It's like the second exit past 18 concern for you --19 Walmart. 19 A. I wasn't concerned. 20 20 Q. Had you been out to Ronnie Blizzard's Q. What's that? 21 house before? 21 A. I wasn't concerned. 22 A. Yeah. 22 Q. Let me just finish my question. Q. How many times had you been out to Ronnie 23 A. All right. 23 24 Blizzard's house? 24 Q. Is it your testimony that you were not

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- 1 concerned when the police officer was behind you
- 2 despite the fact that you were operating the bike
- 3 without a license, without insurance, and was not
- 4 properly registered?
- 5 MR. FORBES: Objection to form.
- 6 You can go ahead and answer if you
- 7 understand.
- 8 A. I wasn't concerned.
- 9 Q. What's that?
- 10 A. I wasn't concerned.
- 11 Q. How come?
- 12 A. I didn't think he was going to pull me
- 13 over, or didn't think he was going to try. They
- 14 usually leave you alone.
- 15 Q. Describe what you mean by he was 16 aggressively behind you.
- 17 A. Meaning as in if I would have hit my
- 18 brakes, he would have rammed me.
- 19 Q. All right. So when you pull off -- you
- 20 are driving, and the officer is right behind you,
- 21 aggressively driving behind you, and then what
- 22 happens next?
- 23 A. I continue to go until the other officer
- 24 pulled out in front of me -- or not really in front

1 officers that you were going to stop --

- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Just let me finish my question.
- 4 You were trying to signal to the police
- 5 officers that you were going to stop your bike, but
- 6 you could not properly stop because the cruiser was

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- 7 too close to you?
- A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. Why didn't you just slow down?
- 10 A. I was going slow. I was going below the
- 11 speed limit.
- 12 Q. I understand, but you could have slowed --
- 13 why could you not have slowed down and just pulled
- 14 over to the side of the road?
- 15 A. You can, but when somebody is that
- 16 aggressive on a motorcycle, you kind of tend to
- 17 want to not eat the pavement. You know what I
- 18 mean? You go to just hit your brakes and somebody
- 19 is that close to you -- I mean, he was aggressively
- 20 close, like literally.
- 21 Q. So the reason you couldn't stop was
- 22 because the police officer behind you was being too
- 23 aggressive?
- A. Way too close to me.

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1 of me, he pulled out behind me, but ...

- Q. What do you mean you continue to go until
- 3 the other officer pulled behind you? So you know 4 there's two cop cars behind you?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- Q. Are either of those police officers -- doeither of them have their lights or siren on?
- 8 A. Not at the moment.
- 9 Q. Were you concerned yet that there are two
- 10 police cruisers behind you now?
- 11 A. Not real- -- a little bit, I'm concerned,
- 12 because he's still too aggressive.
- 13 Q. Did you think to pull over at this point
- 14 when there were now two police --
- 15 A. Yeah. I continued to signal, throw my
- 16 hands up, trying to let him know that I was going
- 17 to stop and pull over, but he was too aggressive.
- 18 If I would have hit my brakes, he would have rammed
- 19 me. He would have took me out.
- 20 Q. So you're saying that you continued to
- 21 signal -- that you were trying to signal --
- A. Tapping brakes. I mean, throw my hand up 23 (indicating) to stop, I'm saying.
- 24 Q. So you were trying to signal to the police

1 Q. So your response to the officer being 2 behind you is to keep driving?

- 3 A. Yeah. If -- to my knowledge, you're
- 4 supposed to be able to pull over when you feel
- 5 comfortable. I mean, comfortable spot, comfortable
- 6 setting. But there was no way that I could have
- 7 pulled over. There was no way I could have
- 8 actually hit the brakes and slowed down to stop
- 9 without him taking me out.
- 10 Q. You didn't feel comfortable pulling over,
- 11 and so you did not?
- 12 A. Not at the time. I wasn't being signaled
- 13 to either.
- 14 Q. What's that?
- 15 A. I said, he didn't have his lights on
- 16 signaling me to pull over either. I was actually
- 17 trying to find out what was going on.
- 18 Q. Neither of the police cruisers at this 19 time have on their lights or sirens?
- 20 A. Not at the moment.
- 21 Q. You're on a motorcycle. Why couldn't you
- 22 just pull off to the side of the road?
- 23 A. Again, that takes you hitting the brakes.
- 24 I mean, he was aggressive, and aggressive -- I'm

1 not saying aggressive by just -- he was so close --

- 2 literally so close to my back tire that he could
- 3 have taken me out at any point in time. You know
- 4 what I mean?
- 5 Q. How close was the cruiser to your back 6 tire?
- 7 A. Way too close. Six inches, eight inches 8 at the most.
- 9 Q. You couldn't just gradually slow down --
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. -- so --
- 12 A. I mean --
- 13 Q. -- you would not have to hit the brakes?
- 14 A. No. You can't really -- you can't really
- 15 stop without hitting the brakes.
- 16 Q. Well, you can slow down to the point --
- 17 A. I was going sl- -- I was going below the 18 speed limit.
- 19 Q. Well, but you can still go lower than the 20 speed limit.
- 21 A. But not without actually hitting your
- 22 brakes.
- 23 Q. Well, the motorcycle will glide to a slow 24 stop?

- 1 MR. FORBES: Objection to the form of the
- 2 question.
- 3 A. As aggressive as he was being, I was
- 4 actually nervous. I was worried for my own
- 5 well-being. Like literally, he attempted to wreck
- 6 me -- I mean, a couple times before any of this
- 7 happened. I mean, it's like you be on a motorcycle
- 8 and have somebody six inches away from your back
- 9 tire. You're not going to want to stop for
- 10 anything. You're going to be scared. You're going
- 11 to be afraid that this person is going to take you
- 12 out. I mean --
- 13 Q. Sure. I understand.
- 14 But my question relates to whether you
- 15 could have just glided --
- 16 A. Pulled --
- 17 Q. -- to a stop.
- 18 A. -- over?
- 19 Q. Yeah.
- 20 A. Not really. Not as aggressive as he was
- 21 being. If I would have hit my brakes to stop and
- 22 pull over -- you have to hit your brakes to stop,
- 23 period.
- 24 Q. Well, if you --

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- A. No. It will continue to go as long as
- 2 it's in gear. I mean ...
- 3 Q. Did you have the ability to take the
- 4 motorcycle from being in gear --
- 5 A. To out of gear? Yes, I did.
- 6 Q. Out of gear, correct.
- 7 And if you could shift from being in gear
- 8 to neutral, then the motorcycle would slowly glide9 to a stop, correct?
- 10 A. Depending on where you're at. I mean ...
- 11 Q. If you're on a straight stretch, if you
- 12 put the motorcycle -- if you shift it from in
- 13 gear --
- 14 A. Are you going uphill or downhill?
- 15 Q. What's that?
- 16 A. Are you going uphill or downhill?
- 17 Q. Well --
- 18 A. It depends on the grade of the road
- 19 honestly.
- 20 Q. But there's -- were there spots at this
- 21 point where we are in this pursuit, or however you
- 22 want to call it, where you could have just shifted
- 23 out of gear, put it in neutral, and slowly glided
- 24 to a stop?

- 1 A. No, not -- have you ever ridden a
- 2 motorcycle?
- 3 Q. I've rode motorcycles a lot --
- 4 A. Well, I mean -- okay. Well --
- 5 Q. So here's what you could have done -- and

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- 6 tell me if I'm wrong -- was, you're in gear and
- 7 you're driving, and you want to slow down without
- 8 hitting your brakes. You're going to put it in
- 9 neutral --
- A. And coast.
- 11 Q. -- and you could coast --
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. -- to a point. If you're going downhill,
- 14 no, that's not -- you're not going to stop, but if
- 15 you're going uphill, you are going to stop.
  - 6 So my question would be -- is, why not
- 17 just do that which would allow you to --
- 18 A. Why not turn your lights on and tell --
- 19 MR. FORBES: Objection --
- 20 A. -- me to pull over?
- 21 Q. If you would just -- it would just allow
- 22 you to stop without actually hitting your brakes.
- 23 A. Okay. At this time, I wasn't being told
- 24 to pull over either. There was no lights. So it

Page 86 1 wasn't necessary for me to hit my brakes at the

- 2 moment. I was wondering, Should I have hit my
- 3 brakes? Yeah, I should have. I should have let
- 4 him wipe me out earlier just because of how
- Thin whe me out camer just because of now
- 5 aggressive he was being. I mean, he was bullying 6 me.
- 7 Q. And the reason you didn't stop your
- 8 motorcycle was because the police cruiser was being
- 9 very aggressive?
- 10 A. Very, very aggressive, without his lights
- 11 on, and without signaling me to pull over.
- 12 Q. All right. So what road are we on now, do
- 13 you know?
- 14 A. Emmons Road.
- 15 Q. We're on Emmons Road.
- 16 And so what happens next?
- 17 A. Going out Emmons Road a little bit, and
- 18 then he bumps the back of my back tire and slides
- 19 me onto the tracks.
- 20 Q. It seemed like there were a lot of other
- 21 roads that we got to before we got to Emmons
- 22 Road --
- 23 A. Not really.
- 24 Q. Not really?

- 1 A. I usually go -- I constantly obey the
  - 2 speed limit. I usually go under the speed limit.

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- 3 Where I don't have a license, I mean, I don't like
- 4 to bring attention to myself.
- 5 Q. Well, I'm talking about during this
- 6 pursuit. Were you --
- 7 A. I never reached over 50 mile an hour the
- 8 whole pursuit.
- 9 Q. You never reached over 50?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Did you reach 50?
- 12 A. No, not that I -- I don't think so.
- 13 Q. At the end of the pursuit --
- 14 A. Forty-five was the highest speed limit,
- 15 I mean, on the road, on Brounland Road.
- 16 Q. How fast were you going directly prior to
- 17 the accident?
- 18 A. What's the speed limit on 119?
- 19 Fifty-five? Probably 50.
- 20 Q. Well, but I'm talking about when you're on
- 21 Emmons about to wreck.
- A. I had really sl- -- about 15, 20 mile an
- 23 hour.
- 24 Q. You were doing 15, 20 miles an hour?

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- 1 A. Trace Fork goes straight to -- it goes
- 2 straight to Brounland, and then -- and the second
- 3 cruiser pulled out on Brounland.
- 4 Q. Were you familiar with these roads back
- 5 there?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. How come? How?
- 8 A. Because I used to ride them all the time.
- 9 Q. Why would you ride those roads all the
- 10 time?
- 11 A. I don't know. I know a lot of people that
- 12 lived out in Boone County.
- 13 Q. So you went from -- it goes from --
- 14 what -- Trace Fork to Brounland to Emmons?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. And Emmons is where the accident happened?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Prior to the accident -- take me to a
- 19 little bit before the accident. What's happening?
- 20 Where are you going? What's your speed? What are
- 21 you thinking? What's going on?
- 22 A. I constantly obey the speed limit. I
- 23 mean, I don't speed.
- 24 Q. What's that?

- 1 A. Coming onto the railroad crossing.
- 2 Q. What's that?
- 3 A. I was coming to a railroad crossing, and
- 4 so you tend to slow down.
- 5 Q. There's a straight stretch -- and tell me
- 6 if I'm wrong, but there's a straight stretch there
- 7 on Emmons before the railroad crossing, and then
- 8 there's a left-hand -- kind of a left-hand turn
- 9 going up --
- 10 A. It's like an S-turn.
- 11 Q. What's that?
- 12 A. It's like an S-turn kind of.
- 13 Q. Yeah, kind of. That's what my
- 14 recollection is.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. So how fast were you going on the straight
- 17 stretch?
- 18 A. Not fast. There was a car in front of me.
- 19 Q. There was a car in front of you?
- 20 A. I'm pretty sure.
- 21 Q. Do you have any estimate of how fast you
- 22 were going?
- A. Probably 25, 30 mile an hour.
- 24 Q. When you're on that straight stretch, are

Page 90 1 there two police cruisers behind you? 1 eyesight which would have somehow prevented you A. To my knowledge, yeah. 2 from seeing --Q. Okay. Do either of the police cruisers 3 3 A. No. 4 have on their lights? 4 Q. -- the police cruiser lights? A. Not that I recall. I don't really 5 A. No. 5 Q. So you're driving 15 to 20 miles an hour. 6 remember. Q. Do either of the police cruisers have on 7 There's two police cruisers behind you. There's 8 one car in front of you. And nobody has on any 8 their siren? 9 lights or sirens? 9 A. No. I never heard none. 10 A. Not that I recall. 10 Q. Is it accurate to say that prior to your 11 accident, you never heard any police officer's 11 Q. Are you all right? 12 lights -- I'm sorry. Is it accurate to say that 12 A. Yeah. 13 prior to your accident, you never heard any police Q. You don't know who was in the car in front 13 14 officer's siren or saw any lights? 14 of you, do you? A. No. A. Huh-uh. 15 15 16 Q. Did you have any -- you didn't have any 16 Q. Is that accurate or inaccurate? 17 way of calling anybody in your helmet, or anything 17 A. Accurate. Q. So prior to the accident, you never saw a 18 like that? 18 19 police officer try to pull you over? 19 A. Huh-uh. 20 Q. Is that a "no"? 20 A. No. 21 Q. Okay. So prior to the accident, you never 21 A. No. 22 were aware that a police officer was attempting to 22 Q. All right. Did you have anything on your 23 pull you over? 23 motorcycle? Were you carrying anything on your 24 A. No. 24 motorcycle, or anything of that nature? Page 93 Q. You just were aware that police officers 1 A. No. 2 were behind you, but you did not think those police 2 Q. Did you have a backpack? 3 officers were trying to pull you over? 3 A. Yeah. Q. What was in your backpack? 4 A. No. 4 Q. Would there be any reason why you wouldn't A. A set of brazing torches, and that's about 5 6 be able to hear a siren? 6 it, I think. A birth certificate. A. I had Bluetooth headphones, but --7 Q. Brazing torches? 8 Q. You what? 8 A. Yeah. A. I had Bluetooth headphones on, but still 9 Q. Brazing, what's that? 10 it doesn't drown out all the noise. I mean --10 A. It's like a form of welding. 11 Q. At the time of the pursuit, were your 11 Q. Okay. Can you spell it? 12 Bluetooth headphones playing music? 12 A. B-R-A-Z-I-N-G. 13 A. Yeah. 13 Q. Why did you have some brazing torches? 14 MR. FORBES: Objection to form. A. Because I was brazing something for my 14 15 Q. What's that? 15 grandpa. A. Yeah. 16 16 Q. What were you brazing for your 17 Q. Yes? 17 grandfather? 18 A. Yeah. A. I don't really remember. 18 Q. What were you listening to? 19 19 Q. Why did you have it on you? 20 A. I don't really remember. Just a playlist. 20 A. Because it was -- I was taking it back 21 Q. Was it like an Apple playlist or 21 home. 22 something? 22 Q. What's that? 23 A. I don't ... 23 A. Because it was in my book bag. 24 24 Q. Do you have any problems with your Q. You had some crystal meth on you?

Page 94 Page 96 A. No. Q. -- you to wreck? 1 1 2 Q. Why did you -- why do you say that? 2 Did you see the cruiser strike your tire? 3 Because there was crystal meth found. 3 A. I felt it. 4 A. No, there wasn't. 4 Q. But you never saw it? 5 MR. FORBES: Objection to the form. 5 A. I felt it. Like I said, a feeling, yeah. 6 Q. What's that? Q. You felt the cruiser strike your back 6 7 A. No, there wasn't. 7 tire --8 Q. Was there not? 8 A. Yeah. 9 No crystal --Q. -- but you did not see the cruiser strike 10 A. Not --10 your back tire? 11 Q. -- methamphetamine --A. No, not necessarily. 11 12 A. -- that I --12 Q. What did it feel like? 13 Q. What's that? 13 A. Like my tire had been pushed to the side. 14 A. Not that I know of. I didn't have 14 Q. Like it had been pushed to the side? 15 anything on me. 15 A. Like getting a bump, you know, somebody 16 bumps you (indicating). Q. Okay. If the police report said that you 16 17 had crystal methamphetamines on you, does that --Q. So what happens whenever he bumps you? 17 A. That doesn't mean anything. I didn't have 18 A. I slide on the tracks, and that's all I 18 19 anything on me. 19 remember until I woke up. 20 Q. Do you know what the brand of brazing 20 Q. You slide on the tracks? 21 torch was? 21 A. Yeah. 22 22 A. No, I don't remember. It was Bernzomatic, MR. FORBES: You all right, Billy? 23 or something like that. I don't remember the name 23 THE WITNESS: My stomach is killing me. 24 of it. 24 I'm like sweating. It actually broke. Me and Dante found a 1 MR. RUGGIER: Can we still go forward or 2 piece of it when we went out to the scene 2 what? 3 afterwards. 3 MR. FORBES: Do you want to keep going a Q. What's that? You found a piece of the 4 few minutes? 5 torch? 5 THE WITNESS: Yeah. A. Yeah. 6 MR. DITRAPANO: The nurse is coming at one 6 7 o'clock, and your dad is on his way over here. 7 Q. And what do you mean they broke? Broke 8 during the accident? So if you can go 10, 15 minutes, and then you 8 can go and get this taken care of. Okav? A. Yeah. 9 9 10 Q. All right. So these officers are behind 10 THE WITNESS: All right. 11 you. There's a car in front of you. You're only 11 BY MR. RUGGIER: 12 going 15 to 20 miles an hour. And then you --Q. So you don't have any memory of anything 12 13 what -- go to go up over the tracks? 13 once you were bumped? 14 A. Yeah. And he hits my rear tire. 14 A. Yeah. I remember everything going white 15 Q. What's that? 15 (untranslatable sound). Q. What's that? You remember everything 16 A. Yeah. And he struck my rear tire and 16 17 going white? 17 pushed me onto the tracks. 18 Q. The cruiser struck your rear tire? 18 A. Yeah. Q. And did you -- your medical records say 19 A. Yeah. 19 Q. How do you know that? 20 20 that you didn't lose consciousness? 21 A. Because I could feel it. 21 A. Yeah. I lost consciousness. 22 Q. What's that? 22 Q. Could it have been the tracks which 23 caused --23 A. Yeah. I lost consciousness. How do my 24 A. No. 24 medical records say that?

Q. I don't know, bud.

- 2 A. That's crazy. It knocked me out. It
- 3 knocked the shit out of me. I went to roll over --
- 4 I was on my stomach -- or on my back, went to roll
- 5 over on my stomach and stand up, and I got kicked
- 6 back over on my back, laying in the mud.
- 7 Q. What's that?
- 8 A. I said, I was laying on my back, went to
- 9 roll over to stand up, and got kicked back onto my 10 back.
- 11 Q. I thought that -- I thought you told me
- 12 you didn't remember -- when did everything go
- 13 white?

1

- 14 A. When I landed and when I hit, after I slid
- 15 on the tracks, (untranslatable sounds), and I woke 16 up.
- 17 Q. Right. You landed and hit. Do you 18 remember anything after that?
- 19 A. Yeah. I just told you. I woke up. I
- 20 went to roll over -- I was on my back in the mud.
- 21 I went to roll over and stand up, and I got kicked
- 22 back onto my back. That's when they started macing
- 23 me, telling me they were going to leave me for
- 24 dead, and screaming they should have killed me.

1 A. I felt it.

- Q. Do you know which officer field goalkicked you?
- 4 A. I have no clue. I was trying to get out
- 5 of the water. As soon as I got back on my back,
- 6 they started macing me and tasing me.
- 7 Q. And I mean, is it -- your testimony is
- 8 that you're not really sure why this has happened

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- 9 to you because no officer had actually turned on
- 10 their lights and siren at this point?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. So what are you thinking at this point?
- 13 A. I'm thinking, Help me. I actually said --
- 14 gave them my name and birthdate -- after they get
- 15 done macing me and I can catch my breath, I give
- 16 them my name and my birthdate and my Social
- 17 Security number and told them that I was driving on
- 18 revoked. I asked them if they could help me.
- 19 That's when they drug me across the railroad
- 20 tracks.
- 21 Q. You gave your name, birthdate, and Social
- 22 Security number?
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. And said you were driving on a revoked; is

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- 1 They grabbed me by the arms, jerked me across the
- 2 tracks, and I couldn't feel my legs after that.
- Q. Do you have memories of this, or is4 this something --
- 5 A. This is a straight memory I'm telling you.
- 6 Q. Okay. It's not from watching the video?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. All right. So you land -- were your back
- 9 tires hit? It was the back tire, right?
- 10 A. Yeah. He hit my back tire.
- 11 Q. He hit your back tire, and somehow that
- 12 causes the bike to what?
- 13 A. Lose control and slide onto the tracks,
- 14 off the road.
- 15 Q. And where do you land?
- 16 A. In the stagnant water laying beside the
- 17 railroad tracks.
- 18 Q. Okay. And what do you do when you land in
- 19 the stagnant water?
- 20 A. I come to, and then go to roll over and
- 21 stand up, and I'm field goal kicked back on my
- 22 stom- -- on my back.
- 23 Q. Did you actually see somebody field goal
- 24 kick you as you --

- 1 that right?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. And their response was to drag you across
- 4 the railroad tracks?
- 5 A. Tell me they should have left me for dead.
- 6 Q. Would there be any reason to -- at this
- 7 point, in your estimation, to -- for the police
- 8 officers to know that you were paralyzed?
- 9 MR. FORBES: Objection to the form of the
- 10 question --
- 11 A. No.
- MR. FORBES: -- and assuming a fact that's
- 13 not in evidence.
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. What's that?
- 16 A. I wasn't paralyzed at the time. I could
- 17 actually -- I was on my -- I was standing -- going
- 18 to stand up when they field goal kicked me back on
- 19 my back and started macing me.
- 20 Q. So your testimony is you weren't paralyzed
- 21 at that point?
- 22 A. I wasn't.
- 23 Q. How do you know that?
- 24 A. Because I went to stand up. I -- I was

Page 104 Page 102 1 kicking my feet. 1 because the officers --2 Q. Say that again? A. They had guns drawn on me. 2 A. I was kicking my feet in the water trying Q. -- the reason you were not moving was 3 3 4 to get -- doing anything to try to keep from 4 because the officers told you not to move, and they 5 drowning. 5 had guns drawn on you? Q. What did the officer say to you? A. Yeah. 6 Q. But you could move at that point? 7 A. We're going to leave you to die. 7 8 Q. We're going to leave you to die. 8 A. Yeah. Q. And how do you know that you could move? 9 What happens next? 9 A. Because I was watching my legs kicking the 10 A. They drag me across the tracks, and that's 10 11 all I remember. 11 water. 12 Q. Were you in the water when you said to the 12 Q. All right. So you're in the water, and 13 officers, Help me? 13 the officer comes to help you? 14 A. Yeah. 14 A. Not come to help me. They come to mace me 15 and tase me. 15 Q. What did you want the officers --A. I wanted them to get me out of the water. 16 16 Q. And mace you. Q. You asked the officers to help you while But do they take you out of the water? 17 17 18 you were in the water? A. Eventually. 18 A. After they had kicked me back on my 19 Q. That's what you wanted, right? MR. FORBES: Objection. 20 stom- -- on my back. 20 21 Q. Kicked you back on your stomach. 21 Q. You wanted the officers to take you out of 22 And at that point --22 the water? 23 A. They were macing me. 23 A. I wanted them to not be macing me and 24 Q. -- at that point, you don't think you were 24 tasing me. Page 103 Page 105 1 paralyzed? Q. Yeah. But I thought you --1 2 A. I know I wasn't. I was kicking my feet. 2 A. I wanted to not drown, yeah, and --3 Q. Why did you ask the officers to help 3 Q. I thought earlier -- I thought you were 4 saying, I wanted the officers to take me out of the 4 you --A. Because they were macing me. They didn't 5 water because I was drowning? 5 6 want me to move. A. Yeah, basically. 6 7 7 Q. What's that? Q. So what happens? A. They grab me by the arms and drag me 8 A. They didn't want me to move. They wanted 8 9 across the tracks. That's the last thing I 9 me to stay in the water and drown. 10 Q. So why did you ask them to help you? 10 remember. 11 A. To get me out of the water to keep from 11 Q. Is that what you wanted the officers to 12 drowning. 12 do, take you out of the water? 13 Q. What's that? 13 A. Not the way they did. A. To keep from drowning. 14 Q. You wanted the officers to take you out of 14 15 Q. You were drowning in the water? 15 the water, but you didn't want them to drag you 16 A. Yeah. It was pretty deep. 16 across the tracks --Q. At this point, you are able to move your 17 17 A. No. 18 legs? 18 Q. -- like they did? 19 A. Yeah, but I'm not allowed to move because 19 A. No.

\_\_\_\_\_L

Q. So you think the officers were telling you

Q. So the reason you were not moving was

A. That's exactly what was happening.

22 just to stay in the water and drown?

20 they told me not to.

21

23

24

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A. No.

20

21

22

23

24

Q. So what happens next?

I wake up 16 days later in the hospital.

Q. You've got no memories after --

A. I don't remember.

Page 108 Page 106 Q. -- what -- being dragged across the MR. DITRAPANO: -- get -- relieve his 1 2 tracks? 2 bowels. Why don't we go ahead and take a 3 break today and let him go get this taken care 3 A. No. 4 I remember saying, I can't feel my legs, 4 of? 5 right before I fell out. And then if you had some time on -- you 5 know, we've got -- tomorrow we've got the 6 Q. What's that? A. I remember saying, I can't feel my legs, police officers and the videographer. 7 7 8 right before I fell out. 8 Then if you had time on Wednesday to Q. Do you remember which officers were out 9 finish the deposition, I could make him 10 there arresting you? 10 available Wednesday. A. I never seen the badges, never seen the 11 11 MR. RUGGIER: Wednesday? MR. DITRAPANO: Yeah. See what that looks 12 names. 12 13 Q. You don't know what their names were? 13 like. 14 A. They didn't give me time. They maced me I could even get him to your office and 14 15 as soon as they seen my face. They didn't even 15 make it easier on you. 16 take my helmet off. MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I appreciate it. 16 17 Q. So they were macing you with your helmet 17 I can't. 18 on? MR. FORBES: What about Thursday? 18 19 A. Yeah. 19 MR. RUGGIER: I've got a hearing that day, 20 Q. Did the mace go to your eyes? 20 but maybe I can get somebody else to cover it 21 on Thursday. 22 Q. How did the mace go to your eyes if --MR. DITRAPANO: Let's talk tomorrow and 22 23 A. Didn't have a visor. 23 figure out -- and we can see if you can do 24 Q. What's that? 24 that and figure out -- you know, I'd like to Page 107 Page 109 1 A. Didn't have a visor. get it done this week if we can. 2 Q. You don't have a visor on your helmet? MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I'd be all about it. 2 3 A. Huh-uh. 3 I mean, I generally -- Friday, I've got a 4 Q. Is that a "no"? mediation. So I can't do it Friday. 5 A. No. MR. FORBES: Well, let's look at it. I 5 6 Q. Okay. Did you have any other eye gear on, mean, if you can't -- you know, if we can't 6 7 or anything like that? 7 work out Thursday, we can look at next week, A. No. 8 8 too. Q. Do you want to take a break? 9 MR. RUGGIER: We're going to -- you know. 9 10 A. Yeah. I'm about done. 10 I'm still wrestling with this issue about the 11 MR. FORBES: What now? 11 investigation and what to do with the police 12 THE WITNESS: I said, I'm about done. 12 officers. And I understand that you all 13 noticed that deposition, and I understand all 13 MR. FORBES: Okay. 14 How much longer do you have? 14 those things, but I need to -- I want to MR. RUGGIER: I've still got to do some 15 15 see -- we may be filing a motion. I'm not damages stuff, and still some more with this. 16 16 sure. I'll let you guys know what our plan 17 I mean, my guess would be -- I don't know --17 is, and what we're going to do. 18 it could be an hour. I don't know. MR. DITRAPANO: Okay. 18 19 MR. FORBES: Yeah. 19 MR. FORBES: Just let us know. I mean, 20 THE WITNESS: That's --20 we've obviously noticed the --21 MR. DITRAPANO: Why don't we -- because MR. RUGGIER: You've got a videographer 21

23

24

22 and all that kind of coming, and I --

MR. DITRAPANO: Yeah.

MR. RUGGIER: -- and I don't want you to

22

23

24

you know --

MR. RUGGIER: Yeah.

he's got the nurses coming over to help him,

Page 110 Page 112 be stuck with an extra bill, or whatever that we're going to do and what our position is on 2 2 is. 3 3 MR. FORBES: Well, we've got a tight time MR. DITRAPANO: Okay. frame on the expert issue. The scheduling 4 MR. FORBES: Okay. order, you know, is tight. MR. DITRAPANO: I mean, we may -- I don't 5 6 And I mean, you know, Billy is obviously know -- yeah, just let us know as soon as you miserable here, but he's gone through this can. If you file a motion, obviously we'll 7 7 today regardless of that misery in order to see it come across and --8 9 try to do this. 9 MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I'll let you know. 10 I mean, we'd like to take the officers 10 I'II --11 tomorrow, but we understand. If you're going MR. FORBES: We're available. You can 11 12 to file a motion, we'll look at it. 12 give us a call later if you file it or --MR. RUGGIER: Yeah, I understand. I mean, MR. DITRAPANO: Yeah. You've got my cell 13 13 14 I understand. 14 number. 15 MR. FORBES: Yeah. 15 (Deposition adjourned at 12:51 p.m.) MR. RUGGIER: Frankly, I just don't -- I 16 16 17 don't think my guys will be able to testify 17 18 without fear of criminal prosecution. I 18 19 mean -- you know. I mean, I --19 MR. FORBES: And we don't have any control 20 20 21 over that. 21 22 MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I understand. 22 23 MR. FORBES: I mean, if they -- I mean, 23 24 you know, obviously, I've done a lot of 24 Page 113 1 STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA To-wit: 1 criminal work. I understand the advice that I. Lisa Kimberly Hall, a Notary Public and they should be getting and probably are 3 Certified Court Reporter within and for the State getting either from you or other counsel, 3 4 aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified, do 4 but --5 hereby certify that the deposition of WILLIAM ALLEN 5 MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. 6 MEANS, was duly taken by me and before me at the 6 MR. FORBES: -- you know, this video is time and place specified in the caption hereof. I 7 what it is. 8 do further certify that said proceedings were 8 And we've got depositions set tomorrow. 9 correctly taken by me in stenotype notes, that the 9 We're going to go forward with them. 10 same were accurately transcribed out in full and 10 MR. RUGGIER: Yeah. I understand. We've 11 true record of the testimony given by said witness 11 got to just do what we've got to do. 12 I further certify that I am neither attorney or So I'm fine with being able to reconvene 12 13 counsel for nor related to or employed by, any of 13 this --14 the parties to the action in which these 14 MR. DITRAPANO: We'll be over at your 15 proceedings were had, and further I am not a 15 office tomorrow at 9:00 and see what's going 16 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel 16 on, you know, with the depositions --17 employed by the parties hereto or financially 17 MR. RUGGIER: Say it again. interested in the action. My commission expires 18 MR. FORBES: We said 9:00 worked. 19 the 16th day of July 2025. Given under my hand and 19 MR. RUGGIER: 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning? 20 seal this 12th day of April 2021. 20 MR. FORBES: 9:00, yeah. 21 21 MR. DITRAPANO: Yeah, at 9:00. We'll be 22 22 at your office tomorrow at 9:00 for those 23 Lisa K. Hall Notary Public 23 depositions. Certified Court Reporter 24 MR. RUGGIER: I will let you know what

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